



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to 30 Years in Prison For Tyler House Murder

Washington, D.C. - Ricardo Blackson, 23, of the District of Columbia, was sentenced today to 30 years in prison by Judge Michael Rankin in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced. Blackson was found guilty by a Superior Court jury on November 10, 2009, of Second Degree Murder, Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence, and Carrying a Pistol without a License.

According to evidence presented at trial, on December 3, 2008, the police were called to the Tyler apartment house located at 1200 North Capitol Street, NW for the report of a shooting. Upon arriving at the scene, officers found the victim, Tecardo Ward Minor, lying in the hallway in front of apartment C-105 suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Fourteen shell casings were found at the scene. The decedent was hit ten times, with most of the entrance wounds in the back. Mr. Minor was pronounced dead at Washington Hospital Center later that night.

During the course of the investigation, a tape from a security camera was reviewed and found to show two individuals walking in the first floor hallway of the apartment house at approximately 4:42 p.m. One of the individuals was the decedent and the other was identified as defendant Ricardo Blackson. A witness was also located who had seen the two men and a woman standing in an area in front of a set of elevators close to where the body was found. She heard one man arguing loudly while the other man was clearly trying to stay calm. As she turned the corner, she heard the calm man say "what are you going to do? Shoot me?" Predictably, shots then rang out. The witness ran and could not identify anyone except to point to the two men in the video. The surveillance camera in the stairwell showed the shooter running up the stairs to the second floor with an object in his hand that clearly was a semiautomatic pistol. After the tape was examined, a crime scene officer went to the area of the stairwell where, in the videotape, the shooter was seen touching the rail with his right hand. Fingerprints were lifted from this rail that matched the defendant.

After he was arrested, the defendant spoke to the police at length. Originally, he denied ever being in the part of the building where the shooting took place. In the end, however, he

acknowledged that the person in the surveillance photos was him. Although the defendant claimed he had no pistol, he acknowledged being left-handed, and the man running up the stairwell in the surveillance photo was holding the pistol in his left hand.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the investigative efforts of Lead MPD Detective Ray Shields of the Homicide Unit, as well as Detective Anthony Patterson and Officer Troy Hinton, Crime Scene Technicians George Klein, John Holder, Ronald Royster, and Peter Essiam, Barbara Evans of the Fingerprint and Identification Section, and Mr. Daniel Levecci of the U.S. Secret Service. He also commended Victim Advocate Marcia Rinker of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Paralegal Specialists Sandra Lane, Wanda Queen and Alesha Matthews and Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. Soroka, who prosecuted the case.

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